Minimum Support Prices for crops like pulses and oilseeds *vis-a-vis* paddy and wheat. With a view to enhance value addition in agriculture, the Union Budget 2003-04 has proposed a new Central Sector Scheme on Hi-tech Horticulture and Precision Farming. The major components of this scheme are use of hi-tech interventions like fertigation, use of biotechnological tools, green food products, and hi-tech green houses.

Cancer drugs under DPCO

2110. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Cancer Care Foundation and others are demanding for putting cancer drugs under Drug Price Control Order; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) National Cancer Care Foundation has sent its suggestions to the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) to make the drugs used in the treatment of cancer affordable. The 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO,95.These drugs have been identified for inclusion under price control in the DPCO, 95, on the basis of criteria mentioned in the 'Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986', announced in September, 1994. These criteria take into account the extent of usage and the market competition of various drugs. None of the 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of DPCO, 95 is an anti-cancer drug.

Processing of farm product

2111. SHRI G.K. VASAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to take up farm product processing is under the consideration of IFFCO;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to facilitate IFFCO's entry into this field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRA PAL SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. IFFCO has conducted sectoral study to identify investment options in farm product processing. The proposal is at the preliminary stage of study.

Promotion of indigenous pharma

2112. SHRI G.K. VASAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether new drugs coming out of indigenous R&D have been taken out of price control regime;

(b) if so, the detials thereof; and

(c) the other steps taken and proposed to be taken to promote indigenous pharma R&D?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government have issued Guidelines for the purpose of grant of exemption under paragraph 25 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 to a drug manufacturing unit from the provisions of paragraphs 3, 8 and 9 of the said Order, in respect of such new bulk drugs which have not been produced elsewhere if developed and produced by that unit through indigenous research and development, for a period of ten years reckoned from the date of commercial production of such bulk drug subject to the conditions specified in the guidelines.

(c) In February, 2002, the Government announced the 'Pharmaceutical Policy-2002', which includes in principle approval to the establishment of the Pharmaceutical Research & Development Support Fund (PRDSF) under the administrative control of Department of Science and Technology, which will also constitute a Drug Development Promotion Board (DDPB) on the lines of the Technology Development Board (TDB) to administer the utilization of the PRDSF. A